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## CHRIST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD MALICIOUS ACCUSATIONS.

WE have received from one of our readers a question as to a statement made by Dr. Lyman Abbott in his article "Are the Ethics of Jesus Practicable?" which is as follows: "I doubt whether there is an instance on record in which he (Christ) defended himself against false or malicious accusations." Our subscriber asks: "In the light of such a statement, how would Dr. Abbott deal with Matt. 12:24-29; John 5:16 ff.; John 7:20-23; John 8:48-50; John 18:22, 23?" We submitted this question to Dr. Abbott, and have received the following reply:

"The question which is here put involves both an interpretation of the passages cited and a consideration of the principle involved in my statement: 'I doubt whether there is an instance on record in which he (Christ) defended himself against false or malicious accusations.'

"Perhaps that statement should have been more fully explained, but in so brief an article statements that would be capable of elaboration, and perhaps require it for accuracy, must necessarily be made with great brevity. I do not mean to suggest that Jesus Christ considered himself estopped from saying anything because what he said would serve as a defense against criticisms leveled at himself, but that he never spoke with the apparent purpose of thus defending himself against such criticisms. The reader of the passages to which the correspondent of the *BIBLICAL WORLD* refers will probably give to them somewhat different interpretations, according to his point of view. To me it seems that in all the instances quoted, and in some others of an analogous character, Jesus simply takes the criticism as a text for popular instruction respecting moral and spiritual truth, or answers the questions addressed to him by critics because his refusal to answer would be considered by the general audience as inability to do so, and therefore as an indication of the falsity of his position.

"In other words, Christ's spirit seems to me to have been that of ignoring himself and his own reputation absolutely and entirely, and using the criticisms upon him only as an occasion for rendering spiritual service to others by his teaching. Of this spirit striking illustrations are afforded by Matt. 11:16-19 and John 18:33-37. The passages which your correspondent cites seem to me to be essentially of the same spirit and character.

LYMAN ABBOTT."